



DECEMBER 31st



On this day in...

2014: A very cold and potent low pressure system dropped very low-elevation snow during this night and into 12/31. Snow levels dropped rapidly overnight down to as low as 1000 feet. The southern Inland Empire was hardest hit. 10 to 18 inches fell across Palomar Mountain, 6 to 9 inches from Warner Springs to Julian, 2 to 4 inches in Temecula, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore, and 4 to 8 inches across Highway 74 and Horsethief canyon in the Santa Ana Mountains. Several road closures resulted, including Highway 74 and Highway 18, and vehicles were stranded.



Significant snow fell where it usually doesn't on this day in 2014. This tropical paradise in Escondido's Hidden Meadows (above) got about one inch at an elevation of 1,700 feet.

1999: A waterspout was observed off the coast of Costa Mesa. Funnel clouds were reported in Santa Ana and Oceanside.

1986: High tide in San Diego was 7.8 feet. In Eureka the tide was 9.1 feet, thought to be the highest in a century. Luckily the weather was fine and surf was small. Minor flooding occurred at coastal low spots on Mission Beach and Ocean Beach and water lapped at the curbs of streets in Balboa Island, Newport Beach.

1965: A warm storm of torrential rains also melted mountain snow from 12/29 to this day. One report of more than 13 inches fell in 24 hours at Mt. Baldy. Nearly nine inches did fall in Lake Arrowhead, and 1.5 to three inches in the coastal lowlands. One drowned in Lytle Creek. Disastrous flooding and debris flows

occurred in the Lytle Creek and Scotland communities, Baldy Village, and in Waterman Canyon. Two boys were rescued from the Santa Ana River in Colton. Numerous roads were washed out in the high desert and the mountains.

1940: Heavy rains that fell a week previous loosened soil along a Del Mar railroad and led to a landslide. The slide derailed a train and killed three.

1933: A major storm hit Southern California starting on 12/30 and ending on 1/1/1934. 7.36 inches fell in 24 hours at LA, a 24 hour record for the city. 8.26 inches fell as a storm total. Storm totals in the southern slopes of mountains topped 12 inches (heaviest: 16.29 inches in Azusa). 45 died all over Southern California in floods. Walls of water and debris up to ten feet high were noted in some canyon areas.

1918: It was 22° in Santa Ana, the lowest temperature on record. This also occurred the next two days on 1/1 and 1/2/1919, and on 1/6/1950. It was 24° in Escondido, the lowest temperature on record for December, and the second lowest temperature on record (lowest was 22° on 1/22/1937).

1909: A terrible storm dropped 4.23 inches of rain in San Bernardino on this day and on 1/1/1910. Lytle Creek and the Santa Ana River flooded at its highest stage in 20 years. Railroads were severely damaged down to San Jacinto and Hemet area. Colton was isolated. Damage in San Bernardino was the “worst in history” and homes in the west of the city were flooded. Highways, water supplies and other utilities were damaged. A train from LA plunged into the Santa Ana River in Colton.